

2007 Harvest Rail Survey

Whiteside & Associates/ Montana Department of Transportation

3203 Third Avenue North, Suite 301

Billings, MT 59101

Phone: 406-245-5132

Email: twhitesd@wtp.net

The 2007 Grain harvest in Montana encountered certain logistical problems! To help us better serve you and to assist in future planning efforts, we are conducting a survey of personal experiences that Montana farm producers and elevators encountered in their 2007 harvest experiences. This study will augment a similar study done in 2006 and provide two years of data to assist in developing solutions to logistic issues with Montana harvests.

The Montana Department of Transportation together with Whiteside & Associates of Billings, will be conducting this Harvest Rail Survey. This survey of the recent 2007 harvest will help identify logistical issues that both served to enhance the harvest rail movement and logistical issues that complicated and produced problems for the movement of this year's harvest.

Please complete this survey and return it to us at your convenience. We want you to know we appreciate your time and effort – it will help us all, help ourselves become more knowledgeable. The more responses the better the data collected. The results of the survey, once tabulated, will be available on the MT DOT website after completion and compilation. Thank you! We are requesting names and addresses in order to facilitate follow-up and to allow us to provide completed survey information to each of you. Your personal information will not be released in the public domain.

Name									
Address									
City, State, Zip									
County									
E-mail									
Phone									
Fax									
Please fill in and where necessary circle answer that best fits your farm situation									
County in which harvest occurred – if more than one county – please fill in.	1. _____		2. _____		3. _____				
Was your 2007 harvest above average, near average or below? Please circle appropriate response for each crop group.	Above Average Winter Wheat Spring Wheat Other		Near Average Winter Wheat Spring Wheat Other		Below Average Winter Wheat Spring Wheat Other				
Types of crop harvested	Winter Wheat		Spring Wheat		Other				
Did your farm store part of your 2007 harvest in on-farm storage?	Yes		No						
What % of your crop was stored on-farm if any.	Winter Wheat _____ %		Spring Wheat _____ %		Other _____ %				
How was your 2007 crop that moved to an elevator moved?	Farm truck _____ %		Commercial or For Hire Truck _____ %		Other _____ %				
How far did your farm move the 2007 crop to an elevator	Winter Wheat _____ miles		Spring Wheat _____ miles		Other _____ miles				
Is your farm hauling further today, to market your grain, than 10 years ago?	Yes		No						
How far did you haul your 2007 grain to market?	0-10 miles	11- 20 miles	21- 40 miles	41- 60 miles	61- 80 miles	81- 100 miles	100- 120 miles	120+ miles	

How far did you haul your grain to market <u>10</u> years ago (1997) if applicable?	0-10 miles	11-20 miles	21-40 miles	41-60 miles	61-80 miles	81-100 miles	100-120 miles	120+ miles
How far did you haul your grain to market <u>20</u> years ago (1987) if applicable?	0-10 miles	11-20 miles	21-40 miles	41-60 miles	61-80 miles	81-100 miles	100-120 miles	120+ miles
What kind of highway are you moving your 2007 grain to market on?	US Primary or Interstate _____%		State or Secondary Highway _____%		County or other highway _____%			
What percentage of winter wheat moved was old crop (pre-2007) and what percentage was new crop of the 2007 movements made from your farm?	Winter Wheat Old Crop (pre-2007) _____%		Winter Wheat New Crop (2007) _____%					
What percentage of spring wheat moved was old crop (pre-2006) and what percentage was new crop of the movements made from your farm?	Spring Wheat Old Crop (pre-2007) _____%		Spring Wheat New Crop (2007) _____%					
What percentage of 'other' (not spring or winter wheat) crop moved was old crop (pre-2007) and what percentage was new crop of the movements made from farm?	Other Crop - Old Crop (pre-2007) _____%		Other Crop - New Crop (2007) _____%					
How many elevators did deliver your farm grain to this year?	One		Two		Three or more			
Were any of your elevators you utilized plugged (unable to accept grain) at any time during the harvest period?	Yes		No					
If an elevator became plugged that you normally utilize – how long was it plugged? – if you know	One day		Two – four days		More than four days			
Did the elevator that became plugged – become plugged more than once during the harvest?	Yes		No					
Do you know the reason for the elevator becoming plugged?	Lack of Rail Cars		Mechanical Problem		Other _____			
If your traditional elevator could not accept your grain – did you transport to an alternative elevator site or just hold off delivery?	Transport to alternative elevator		Held off delivery until elevator could accept grain					
Please rate your harvest transportation delays	Worse than normal		About normal		Less than normal			
Were the transportation delays more prevalent at smaller (less than shuttle loading) elevator facilities or larger ones – shuttle (110 car)?	Smaller elevator		Larger (shuttle) elevator					
Did you transport any of your grain to a 110 car shuttle facility?	Yes		No					
If your farm transported any of your grain to a shuttle facility – what percentage of your grain was moved to a shuttle (110 car) facility?	Winter Wheat _____%		Spring Wheat _____%		Other _____%			
What is your Average wait time at your Elevator in hours? Elevator 1 _____ Elevator 2 _____ Elevator 3 _____								
Do you always get a better price from a shuttle elevator than from smaller elevators? Yes No								
If so, (please circle best answer)(a) less than 1 cent per bushel, (b) between 1 and 3 cents per bushel, (c) between 4 and 6 cents per bushel, (d) more than 6 cents per bushel.								
If you do get a higher price from a shuttle elevator, how much of that higher price is consumed in trucking costs to reach the shuttle facility?								
Additional comments:								